101ST CONGRESS
1st Session
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPT. 101-119
Part 2

OCEAN AND COASTAL PROGRAMS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1989

AUGUST 3, 1989.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. ANDERSON, from the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 1668]

The Committee on Public Works and Transportation, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1668) to authorize appropriations for certain ocean and coastal programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Section 3(c) of the bill as reported by the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries is amended as follows:

(1) By inserting "(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—" before "There are authorized".

(2) By striking ", which shall be located at the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan" and inserting the following:

"(2) LOCATION OF RESEARCH OFFICE.—The Great Lakes Research Office shall be located at the existing Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.

"(3) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Great Lakes Research Office shall coordinate its activities under section 118 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with the activities of the Great Lakes National Program Office and the Environmental Research Laboratory—Duluth of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"(4) OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH OFFICE.—The objectives of the Great Lakes Research Office shall be to achieve the goals embodied in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978, as amended by the Water Quality Agree-

ment of 1987 and any other agreements and amendments.".

(3) By indenting the paragraph created by paragraph (1) and aligning such paragraph with paragraph (2) as added by paragraph (2).

H.R. 1668 was reported by the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on June 29, 1989, and was sequentially referred to the Committee on Public Works and Transportation for a period ending not later than August 4, 1989, for consideration of the provisions of the bill which fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

The bill authorizes appropriations for certain ocean and coastal programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for fiscal year 1990. These include mapping, charting, and geodesy; observations and assessments; and oceanic and atmospheric research. The provision in the reported bill which falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee of Public Works and Transportation is section 3(c), which among other things authorizes $3,615,000 for use for establishing and operating the Great Lakes Research Office, and provides that this office shall be located at the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The laboratory is a NOAA facility and the Research Office would be operated by NOAA.

Section 118 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, added by the Water Quality Act of 1987, establishes the Great Lakes National Program Office within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to coordinate U.S. implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The responsibilities of the office include interagency and local, state and federal coordination of actions to improve Great Lakes water quality; development of programs to reduce nutrients entering the Lakes and demonstrate methods of removing toxic pollutants from bottom sediments; and monitoring of Great Lakes water quality.

The 1987 Water Quality Act also included, as part of the new section 118, establishment of the Great Lakes Research Office. This office, which is to be located in a Great Lakes state, is to identify and inventory research programs relating to the Great Lakes, develop a comprehensive environmental research program, and conduct research and monitoring programs addressing issues and needs relating to Great Lakes water quality.

Section 118 authorizes appropriations of $11 million per year through fiscal year 1991 to the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out the section, 30 percent of which is to be transferred to NOAA for use by the Great Lakes Research Office. The fiscal year 1988 and 1989 HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Acts did not allow the transfer of the funds to NOAA. The House Veterans Affairs, HUD, and Independent Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1990 does the same. Because of the lack of funding and no agreement on the location of the Office, it has not been established.

The work authorized in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for the Great Lakes Research Office is needed to fulfill U.S. obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with Canada and to aid in cleanup efforts at areas of concern which have been identified throughout the Great lakes. Currently, no

comprehensive inventory of Great Lakes Research programs exists. in addition, there is no data base containing comprehensive data on water quality, fisheries, and biota. This information, along with the other responsibilities authorized for the Great Lakes Research Office, would speed up restoration of the Great Lakes. Greater coordination of research would also improve efficiency of research expenditures because the potential for research projects to be unnecessarily repeated would be eliminated.

ACTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee adopted one amendment to H.R. 1668. The amendment would specify that the Research Office be located at the existing NOAA facility so as to make the best use of existing facilities and preserve resources for research activities. The amendment also requires that the Great Lakes Research Office is to coordinate its activities under section 118 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with the activities of the Great Lakes National Program Office and the EPA Environmental Research Laboratory—Duluth. Finally, the amendment would also assure that the objectives of the Great Lakes Research Office shall be to achieve the goals embodied in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978 (as amended).

The amendment made by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation support efforts to site the Great Lakes Research Office within the existing Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory. Siting the Great Lakes Research office within an existing laboratory will assure that the maximum amount of funds is available for program activities. Existing facilities are adequate to house the Office. Authorized activities can begin immediately and capital that might go towards construction or purchase of new equipment can be used for needed research.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the objective of the Great Lakes Research Office shall be to achieve the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality agreement, including improvement of Great Lakes cleanup efforts. While research efforts alone cannot restore Great Lakes water quality, they can be directed toward projects that support achieving these goals. Many areas of Great Lakes restoration, including cleanup of contaminated sediments and the elimination of toxics contamination in general, could benefit from additonal research.

The Great Lakes Research Office is to coordinate its activities with the EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, the main regional coordinating office for Great Lakes restoration, and the EPA Environmental Research Laboratory—Duluth on research coordination. Coordination among the federal and state agencies performing research on Great Lakes water quality will accelerate efforts to achieve the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Through communication, research organizations can support rather than duplicate each other's efforts, thus increasing the pace of research and ultimately achieving cleanup in the Great Lakes.

COMPLIANCE WITH CLAUSE 2(l) OF RULE XI OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(1) With reference to clause 2(l)(3)(A) of rule XI of the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight did not hold hearings on the specific subject matter of the legislation. Both the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight and the Subcommittee on Water Resources have, however, conducted hearings on the implementation of section 118 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and held hearings on issues pertaining to Great Lakes water quality since enactment of the 1987 amendments.

(2) With respect to clause 2(l)(3)(B) of rule XI of the House of Representatives, H.R. 1668 as reported by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation does not provide new budget authority or increase tax expenditures. Accordingly, a statement pursuant to section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act is not required.

(3) With respect to clause 2(l)(3)(C) of rule XI of the House of Representatives, the Committee has not received a timely report from the Congressional Budget Office. However, a cost estimate was prepared to accompany the report of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, House Report 101–119, Part 1. The amendment of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation should not result in a change to those estimates, and the Committee believes those estimates would apply.

(4) With reference to clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has not received a report from the Committee on Government Operations pertaining to this subject matter.

(5) With reference to clause 2(l)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following information is provided: The effect of carrying out H.R. 1668, as reported, should be negligible with respect to prices and costs.

COST OF LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires a statement of the estimated costs to the United States which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 1668, as reported, in Fiscal Year 1989 and each of the following five years. The Committee believes that the amendment adopted in Committee would not change the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office and contained in House Report 101–119, Part 1, to accompany H.R. 1668, filed by the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. The Committee believes that those estimates would apply.

COMMITTEE ACTION AND VOTE

The Committee, in compliance with rule XI 2(l)(2)(A) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, reports favorably the bill H.R. 1668, as amended.

The Committee ordered the bill reported by voice vote.

○